

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO ALL AMERICAN REPUBLIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS

INFO USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 158470

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:PFOR, OAS

SUBJECT: OAS MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS

1. WHEN THE OAS SPECIAL COMMITTEE RESUMES ITS WORK IN EARLY SEPTEMBER ONE OF THE MOST CONTROVERSIAL QUESTIONS WILL BE OAS MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS. SECRETARY KISSINGER IN HIS OAS GA SPEECH IN ATLANTA DECLARED THAT QTE OAS MEMBERSHIP SHOULD BE OPEN TO ALL THE NATIONS WHO HAVE ATTENDED THE FOREIGN MINISTERS CONFERENCE UNQTE. THE ONLY NATION WHICH ATTENDED THE MFMS WHICH CANNOT JOIN THE OAS IS GUYANA.

2. AN OAS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION MUST BE APPROVED BY TWO-THIRDS VOTE OF THE PERMANENT COUNCIL AND OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY. IN ADDITION ARTICLE 8 OF THE CHARTER STATES: QTE THE PERMANENT COUNCIL SHALL NOT MAKE ANY RECOMMENDATION NOR SHALL THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY TAKE ANY DECISION WITH RESPECT
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TO A REQUEST FOR ADMISSION ON THE PART OF A POLITICAL EN-

TITY WHOSE TERRITORY BECAME SUBJECT, IN WHOLE OR IN PART, PRIOR TO DECEMBER 18, 1964, THE DATE SET BY THE FIRST SPECIAL INTER-AMERICAN CONFERENCE, TO LITIGATION OR CLAIM BETWEEN AN EXTRACONTINENTAL COUNTRY AND ONE OR MORE MEMBER STATES OF THE ORGANIZATION, UNTIL THE DISPUTE HAS BEEN ENDED BY SOME PEACEFUL PROCEDURE. UNQTE.

3. THE INITIATIVE FOR THIS OAS CHARTER PROVISION CAME FROM VENEZUELA, GUATEMALA AND ARGENTINA, AS A RESULT OF THEIR

TERRITORIAL CLAIMS AGAINST GUYANA, BELIZE AND THE FALKLANDS.

4. JAMAICA, BARBADOS AND TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO HAVE PROPOSED DELETION OF ARTICLE 8. THERE IS SOME SYMPATHY FOR DELETION AMONG LATIN MEMBERS TOO, BUT APPEALS BY VENEZUELA, GUATEMALA AND ARGENTINA FOR QUOTE SOLIDARITY UNQUOTE COULD MAKE IT DIFFICULT IF NOT IMPOSSIBLE TO ACHIEVE DELETION. NEVERTHELESS, USOAS HAS INDICATIONS THAT VENEZUELA AND ARGENTINA MIGHT NOT PUT UP A BITTER-END FIGHT TO KEEP ARTICLE 8. ON THE OTHER HAND, USOAS UNDERSTANDS THAT GUATEMALA HAS ALREADY BEGUN A CAMPAIGN TO KEEP ARTICLE 8 AND MAY BE HAVING SOME SUCCESS.

5. ACTION REQUESTED OF ALL POSTS EXCEPT GEORGETOWN AND NASSAU: OUR OPTIONS RANGE FROM SIMPLY VOTING QUIETLY FOR THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING MOVE TO REPEAL ARTICLE 8 TO AN ALL-OUT CAMPAIGN. WOULD THE HOST GOVERNMENT BE RESPONSIVE TO A LOW-KEY APPROACH BY THE U.S. AND OTHER GOVERNMENTS TO ELIMINATE OR WATER DOWN ARTICLE 8? POSTS WITH INFORMATION OR RECOMMENDATIONS ON THIS MATTER ARE REQUESTED TO REPORT THEM. PLEASE DO NOT APPROACH GOVERNMENTS AT THIS TIME.

6. FOR BUENOS AIRES, CARACAS AND GUATEMALA: COULD THE HOST GOVERNMENT BE BROUGHT TO ACQUIESCE IN SUCH A CHANGE, ABSTAINING OR VOTING AGAINST BUT NOT WAGING AN ALL-OUT CAMPAIGN? KISSINGER

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